

JUN 15 1998

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Ms. Sherri Withrow
110 Santa Clara Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
June 10, 1998

Mr. Mark Cowin
CAL-FED Bay/Delta Program
1416 - 9th Street
Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Cowin:

I am writing a letter to provide you with some ideas regarding your proposal to raise Shasta Dam. I am vehemently opposed to your proposal and feel it is a very poor suggestion and will not clean up the Delta as you claim. Although I am in opposition I have some suggestions that you should hear, and think over. I am not an environmentalist and do not belong to any group. I am just an ordinary person searching for some answers.

First of all I am requesting that you to send me a copy of the proposal, your reasons for raising the height of the dam (are there other reasons besides Delta cleanup?) and any environmental impact studies, recreational impact studies, wild river studies or other information you have. Also, have you examined and can you send me information on increased endangerment of cities below the dam, and damage and restoration funds available for property owners. These are a few of my questions and I will have more in the future.

I believe this is a an unstudied and unsatisfactory proposal and will not solve the problems of cleaner water or restoration of the fishery in California. It does not make intelligent environmental sense in a state that is struggling with many environmental questions and trying to hang onto the scenic and wild places for which it is renowned.

California has always underwent periods dryer and wetter weather. We are currently entering a phase of wet weather. The Delta always had times when it was more saline and times when floods from all the rivers flushed and cleansed it. One need only study the rings on old coniferous trees to calculate the wet and dry cycles. The Delta is more natural than you might think.

The canals that supply water to various parts of the State were mostly built in an era when people did not understand that the Delta would be more saline at times. These same people were the Dam builders who blocked migratory salmon from traveling up many rivers to their breeding grounds.

One of our suggestions is to move the head of the Delta-Mendota Canal north, to extract water above the Delta. A new canal could be created to funnel water from the Sacramento River near Woodland, CA.

The need for water in Southern California can be satisfied in other ways. A dam on the Kern River and additional reservoirs in the Sierra Nevada could be examined. These areas would be closer to Southern, CA and could reasonably be linked to the the LA Aqueduct.

I enjoy some sport fishing every year. Sometimes I keep fish and sometimes I don't. The most fascinating fishing is always trout in the Sacramento River. There is no river like it on earth. The thought of one more catastrophe to this unparalleled river is unmentionable.

As you know, in July of 1991, the Sacramento River was destroyed by a dose of Metam Sodium and made headlines all over the country. Even before the river has been restored to its status as a viable sport fishing stream, your proposal has been issued. It is truly insulting. To me, your proposal reads like this, "Destroy a Wild Trout Stream, to Save a Delta." It doesn't make good sense. You will create a backwater of miles and miles of a river that is just recovering and for which residents and concerned persons had to fight hard to win a settlement with the SP railroad to restore this river to its former glory. I would think the Department of Fish and Game would be in shock after all their hard work. Can you see my point?

If the intent is to supply more water to Southern California and farming interests, I must say that the cry for water from these quarters will never end. You could dam every river in California and there would still be a cry for expansion for industry, farming and residential uses. It is a battle we will never win. The only way we can count gains instead of losses is to balance things out. So much of our wild rivers have already been destroyed I don't believe we can afford to give up another mile. Even San Francisco Bay is protected from filling, so that the size of the bay will remain the same. Please protect our rivers and drop this proposal like a hot potato. Protect our tourism, recreation and fishing.

Additionally, if you go forward with the project, I will ask for a provision to be added to it, that to balance out the damage to the environment, a fish ladder would have to be made, and salmon planted and nurtured in all major rivers and streams which flow into Shasta Lake. If you want clean water in this manner, I hope you are

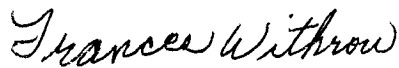
prepared to pay for it, by restoring the fishery as it was in the 1930s before Shasta Dam was built. Clean water is not just for drinking and washing cars in Southern California, it is for fish and fishermen and for our grandchildren to enjoy as natural an environment as we can nurture.

I and my family say no to your proposal to raise Shasta Dam. We are awaiting your reply to the above comments and questions.

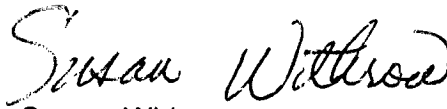
Sincerely,



Sherri Withrow



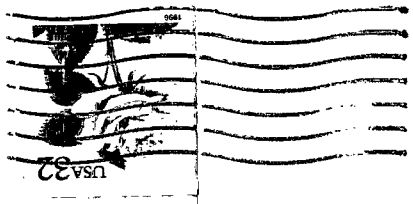
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Susan Withrow

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